

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06358 031246Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----073414 031246Z /46

O 031059Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7117
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 06358

EXDIS (DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS)

JERUSALEM FOR AMB ATHERTON

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, US, IS, EGY, JO
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 193270

1. INFORMED PALACE CHIEF SHARAF AUGUST 3 OF CONTENTS
OF REFTTEL, INDICATING ATHERTON AND SAUNDERS DO NOT RPT NOT
NOW EXPECT TO HAVE CONSULTATIONS WITH AREA GOVERNMENTS FOLLOWING
SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EASTERN TRIP. ALSO MENTIONED SECRETARY
ONLY STOPPING IN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND RETURNING TO U.S.
ON AUGUST 9.

2. SHARAF SAID HE EXPECTED SUCH A DEVELOPMENT, GIVEN THE RECENT
SADAT MOVE TO BREAK OFF DIRECT TALKS. SHARAF ADDED THAT SADAT'S
DECISION FRANKLY CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO HIM, OR, HE ADDED, TO
SAUDI PRINCE FAHD, GIVEN GENERAL ISRAELI ATTITUDES ON NEGOTIATIONS,
PLUS RUDE PUBLIC REMARKS BEGIN HAD MADE ABOUT SADAT.

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 06358 031246Z

3. DESPITE OUR ATTEMPTS, SHARAF WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT ON DETAILS
OF RECENT VISIT TO JORDAN OF SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD OTHER THAN
TO SAY IT WAS A "GOOD VISIT" AND THAT WE WOULD TALK ABOUT IT NEXT
WEEC.

4. COMMENT: MOST OF OUR REGULAR JORDANIAN CONTACTS HAVE BEEN

UNAVAILABLE FOLLOWING SAUDI CROWN PRINCE'S VISIT. IN THE WAKE OF
SADAT'S DECISION TO BREAK OFF DIRECT TALKS AND THE SAUDI
DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE, WE SUSPECT JORDANIANS ARE LYING LOW UNTIL
AFTER SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH SADAT ON CURRENT STATE
OF NEGOTIATIONS. SUDDARTH

SECRET

NNN

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